

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00  
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 MCE-00  
/065 W

-----085886 201907Z /44

O R 201835Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 055  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1264

SECDEF FOR DR. PERRY, OSD/DDR&E

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, NATO, IT  
SUBJECT: EUROPEAN HELICOPTER PRODUCTION: NO HELP TO  
STANDARDIZATION

1. REPRESENTATIVE OF AGUSTA AIRCRAFT TOLD EMBASSY  
CONFIDENTIALLY THAT, UNDER COVER OF THE IEPG, THE  
EUROPEAN HELICOPTER COOPERATION TECHNICAL WORKING  
GROUP MAY SOON TAKE A FIRM DECISION ON WHETHER TO  
PRODUCE A EUROPEAN HELICOPTER WHICH IS IN THE SAME  
CLASS AS THE UTTAS (UH-60A). THE STEERING COMMITTEE  
OF THE SPECIAL WORKING GROUP IS SCHEDULED TO MEET  
IN PARIS ON JANUARY 25. AND AROUND FEBRUARY 15 THE  
PRESIDENTS OF THE FOUR MAJOR EUROPEAN HELICOPTER  
COMPANIES (AGUSTA, WESTLAND, AEROSPATIALE  
AND MBB) ARE DUE TO MEET, AT WHICH TIME THE FIRST STEPS  
IN PRODUCING THIS HELICOPTER MAY WELL BE CAST INTO  
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CONCRETE.

2. THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, ON AGUSTA'S  
ADVICE, HAS SUCCEEDED FOR TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS  
IN STAVING OFF THIS PROGRAM. GIVEN THE CURRENT  
POLITICAL SITUATION, HOWEVER, IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER  
THE GOI WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE ITS DELAYING TACTICS

MUCH LONGER.

3. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FROM VARIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH RECENT STATE AND DOD VISITORS THAT A EUROPEAN-DEVELOPED HELICOPTER OF THE UTTAS TYPE WOULD DUPLICATE R&D ALREADY COMPLETED ON THE UH-60A, AND HENCE, FLY IN THE FACE OF NATO STANDARDIZATION AND RATIONALIZATION OF DEFENSE PRODUCTION AND PROCUREMENT. IT APPEARS THAT THIS EUROPEAN PROPOSAL IS LARGELY A FRENCH CREATURE TO GET THE PROGRAM OFF THE GROUND BEFORE THE NEXT IEPG MEETING AND BEFORE THE SPECIFICS OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC DIALOGUE CAN BEGIN TO PLACE OBSTACLES IN ITS PATH.

4. FINALLY, WHILE IT IS OBVIOUS THAT AGUSTA WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SUCH A COPRODUCTION ARRANGEMENT, AGUSTA HAS ALSO INFORMED US THAT FRG MIGHT WELL ALSO BE INTERESTED. THE FRG, AT PRESENT, IS PUBLICLY SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A EUROPEAN-DEVELOPED HELICOPTER, BUT AGUSTA HAS TOLD US THAT ONCE USG HAS PUBLICLY AND OPENLY MADE UH-60A COPRODUCTION AVAILABLE, A VERY HIGH POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT FRG WOULD JOIN THAT PROGRAM.

5. EMBASSY IS AWARE OF THIS ISSUE'S SENSITIVITY VIS-A-VIS IEPG, NEVERTHELESS WE FEEL THAT NATO STANDARDIZATION WOULD NOT BE SERVED BY DUPLICATING CONFIDENTIAL

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A MODEL, AND ALL THE R&D COSTS THAT HAVE GONE INTO IT, ALREADY FAR ALONG THE ROAD TO PRODUCTION. INDEED IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT THIS DUPLICATION WOULD REALLY BENEFIT THE IEPG EITHER.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE AND GUIDANCE AS TO ANY ROLE EMBASSY MIGHT PLAY ON THIS ISSUE. GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** PRODUCTION, HELICOPTERS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Markings:**  
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